Surge of World Sugar Prices

3400. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the world sugar prices are on the surge as cane is diverted for production of ethanol;

(b) whether Brazil has started exporting ethanol and is curtailing sugar production adding strain to world sugar market; and

(c) whether Government would permit sugar factories to switch over to ethanol production thereby jeopardizing PDS system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Brazil has been exporting ethanol. However, its sugar production in the current sugar season 2005-06 is expected to be marginally higher than last year.

(c) In India, ethanol is produced from molasses (a by-product of sugar) and not from sugarcane juice. No adverse impact has been noticed on PDS system.

Flexible Complementary Scheme for Scientists

3401. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the flexible complementary scheme for scientists under his Ministry;

(b) whether the same is not being implemented properly in various research institutions of his Ministry;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are also aware that R&D activities are suffering badly due to non-implementation of this scheme in various research insti-

tutes, particularly in G.B. Pant Institute for Himalayan Environment and Development, Almora; and

(e) if so, the names of the scientists who have been denied the benefits under the said scheme during the last five years in the above said institute along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Flexible Complementing Scheme (FCS) is being implemented in this Ministry based on the guidelines issued by the Department of Personnel & Training vide their O.M. No. 2/41/97-PIC dated 9th November, 1998, as amended from time to time;

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

Encroachment of Forest Area in Cardamon Hill

3402. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many acres of land in the Cardamom Hill area in the Idukki district of Kerala has been declared as reserve forest and whether the boundaries of reserve forest area have been clearly demarcated;

(b) whether any encroachment in that forest area has been brought to the notice of Government and the steps, if any, taken by Government for assigning land to encroachers; and

(c) whether Government accorded permission to the State Government to issue title deeds for the encroachers of Cardamom Hill resources area and if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per the original notification, Cardamom Hill Reserve (CHR) extends over an area of 15,720 acres. However, there is variation in the area of CHR as it exists in the notification, and as on ground.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. On the basis of the proposal received from the Government of Kerala, 20,363 hectares of forest land was diverted during